Formation of a New Department of Earth Sciences

3146 SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to form a new Department of Earth Sciences by merging Indian Meteorological Department and Department of Oceanography;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether this will be an improvement over the existing system of different departments?

THE MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, Government (Cabinet) has approved the reorganization of the Ministry of Ocean Development as Ministry of Earth Sciences. The Earth System Organization (ESO) as an executive mechanism under the Ministry of Earth Sciences would have two major entities, namely (i) Ocean Science and Technology Department and (ii) India Meteorological Department. The Ocean Science and Technology Department would consist of the existing Centres and Attached Offices of the Ministry of Ocean Development. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) would consist of the existing IMD, a strengthened Seismological Institute and the corresponding components (like Earthquake Risk Evaluation Centre and programme personnel) from the Department of Science and Technology (DST). The Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) and National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF) would report to ESO.

(c) Yes Sir, formation of Ministry of Earth Sciences will enable a framework for understanding the complex interactions among the key elements of the earth system, namely the ocean, atmosphere and the solid earth, by encompassing the functioning of national programmes in meteorology, climate and environmental science and seismology.

Findings of Rice Genome Research

3147. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the findings of Rice Genome Research by Indian scientists have been applied in rice research for increasing rice yield;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and